

An Essay

on

Pneumonia

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Pneumonia. Peripneumonia. Pneumonitis
Pneumonia or inflammation of the substance
of the lungs, is a disease of all ages. in
very old persons it often assumes a typhoid
form. it is most frequently met with
between the age of 17 and 50 years.
it is a disease of three changes or stages
They are, first, that of engorgement
secondly, the stage of Hepatization
and thirdly, the stage of Gray Hepa-
tization, or purulent infiltration.
The first stage as its name implies is
that of an increased quantity of blood
and bloody serum in the substance
of the lung, the lung is of a dark
red color externally, it is heavier than
in the sound state, yet does not
sink when thrown in water, as it still
contains air in its cells, the lung is

more easily torn than in the sound state,
The accompanying fever is of the
Synochial kind in most cases. Although
this is not a constant occurrence as
Pneumonia may pass through all its
stages without much affecting the
pulse. The irritation of the Bronchial
tubes is excessive gives rise to a distressing
cough, as the disease progresses the
cough becomes more moist, and
the patient expectorates a tenaceous
mucus which adheres to the bottom
and sides of the vessel containing
it. This is followed or accompanied
by a very characteristic expectoration
namely the rust colored Sputa, this
generally indicates that the disease
is approaching the second stage.

Sometimes this Sputa is mixed with Bronchial mucus streaked with blood denoting acute inflammation of the Bronchial tubes. The pain in this disease is but slight, or of a dull aching kind, unless a portion of the Pleura be affected in which case the pain is of a cutting kind.

Pneumonia without some inflammation of the Pleura is of rare occurrence, and must occur in the lobular form, and when the inflammation is confined to the interior of the lung.

Percussion in this stage of the disease does not show any decided dullness over the part inflamed, but by auscultation we are at once enabled to indicate the precise spot and

and the extent of the inflamed portion.
by applying the ear to the chest in this
stage we hear a sound caused by
the passage of air through the tenaceous
mucus or lymph thrown out upon the
surface of the Bronchial tubes, and
forming a succession of small reports
as bubbles are formed and burst by
the passage of the air into and out of
the lungs. this sound is called
'Crepitation', and indicates the disease
in question. The respiration is impeded
owing to the difficulty of the air passing
into the air cells, and the nostrils
are expanded and contracted in
inspiration and expiration. the pulse
is generally much increased in frequency
so much so that it is with me a

diagnostic sign of the disease, as the disease increases the pulse and respiration become more hurried and if a great part of the lung be invaded the patient may die in this stage, from want of due arterialization of the blood. Should the disease be not checked it passes into the

Second stage, or that of Hepatization. This stage may be known generally by the following symptoms, the breathing becomes more and more hurried, the dyspnea becomes excessive, the patient speaks in a hurried and panting manner, the sputa acquire more of the tenacious character, the sound afforded by percussion is now decidedly

dull, by placing the ear to the chest we may hear around the edge of the dull portion minute crepitation but in place of Crepitation where we heard it before we here another sound a kind of Blowing, this is called Bronchial respiration, as no air can enter the Hepatized portion of the lung, the Breathing must of course be bronchial.

If in this stage while applying the ear to the chest we direct the patient to speak, we hear a different sound from health, namely Bronchophony as the lung being in a solid state conveys the sound of his voice to the ear, and the sound resembles that of one speaking

in the ear. in this stage the Prognosis is very uncertain. the question now is will the lung recover from this state by resolution, or will it pass on to the third stage. Should the former and favorable change take place crepitation at first minute is heard in the solid portion. this becomes more loud and coarse as the disease retrogrades. Bronchophony becomes less distinct, the dullness upon percussion less marked. the dyspnea becomes less. we hear gradually the respiratory murmur. the fever declines and the Sputa return to the catarrhal character.

Should the reverse of this however take place, we then suppose that the

disease is progressing toward the third stage, and in some cases it is almost impossible to tell whether the disease is in the second or third stage. we suppose the third stage if the expectoration becomes dark in color, thin and watery, like prune juice, if the countenance become pale and corpse like, profuse clammy perspiration breaks out the features sunken, the patient becomes comatose, and has a feeble or an irregular pulse, the vital powers are exhausted — in such a state death may be apprehended.

Duration of Pneumonia may be laid down on the average at 9 days, the crisis

at 5 days. the prognosis in this disease is more favorable in young than old persons. and depends also upon the complications with Phthisis, or hepatic derangement.

Treatment. in the first stage or that of engorgement. the remedy is *aconite*, which is indicated by, Chills alternating or mingling with heat on the least motion or uncovering a part in the least. although the patient to others is very hot. full hard pulse. redness of the face and great heat of skin. tongue red and dry or coated yellow. dryness of the mouth with great thirst. urine red and scanty. constipation. Should the Brain be sympathetically

affected, and then be delirium. a few
doses of Belladonna higher attenuations
should be used alternately with aconite.
after the fever is in some measure sub-
dued by the aconite, we can alternate
it with Phosphorus, which appears more
specific to this disease in this stage
than any other remedy, as it has a
specific action upon the lungs, and
is to inflammation of the substance
of the lungs, what Bryonia is to infla-
mation of the pleura. The symptoms
for which Phosphorus is indicated,
are, dull Pain and feeling of con-
striction in a crop the chest, sensation
of itching and heat in the chest,
oppression of breathing, worse when
sitting than when lying, cough dry

expectoration difficult and rust colored
red circumscribed spot upon each
cheek, but frequently the left cheek
only. Should the pneumonia be
accompanied with pleuritis, and
cutting and stabbing pains in respiration
Byonia is indicated. Byonia is
furthermore indicated, by stinging
shooting, or burning pains in the
side aggravated by heaving, respiration
short, difficult and rapid. Sensation
of tightness or oppression of the chest
painful cough on account of increased
expansion of the chest necessary in
coughing. the cough is dry or expect-
oration of glairy mucus sometimes,
streaked with blood. pain in the
intercostal spaces of the side affected

on pressure. For the Stage of Hepatization
Sant Emetic appears useful in effecting
resolution. the indications for its use
are little or no pain, great difficulty
of breathing loose cough with much
expectoration, and alleviation of the
oppression by coughing. dullness of the
Chest on percussion and Bronchophony
it is also indicated by yellow tinge
around the mouth, yellow tongue
sensation as if the Chest were lined with
velvet. want of air obliging one to sit erect
The Third Stage or Gray Hepization is
difficult to treat. Mercurius I should
think was a good remedy when the
2nd stage was about to resolve itself
into the third. pulse hurried and full
much thirst. the fever is of the irritative

Character, profuse fetid sweats, dry mouth
and throat, nightly delirium, great
sensitivity of the liver & epigastrium, and
Brown coating upon the tongue, Arseni
China. Carb. vegetab. Rhus. may also
be useful. Arseni is indicated by
great failing of strength, profuse clammy
sweats, coldness of extremities, rigor.

arrest of healing with weakness, and debility.
For typhoid pneumonia which occurs after
enteritis, attended with a peculiar tongue
i.e. Tongue coated Brown or white with
enlarged papillae, profuse perspiration about
the temples and necks, redness of the
left cheeks. I have found to yield
to Bryonia, Rhus, and Phosphorus